IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 25-38 as set forth below.

25. (New) A system comprising:

a plurality of storage devices; and

a control unit for controlling read/write of data requested by a plurality of host processors into the plurality of storage devices, using a plurality of logical storage areas constituted by storage areas of the plurality of storage devices,

wherein, when the control unit receives I/O requests from multiple host processors for the same logical storage area, the I/O requests are handled in parallel if the control unit determines that there is no extent conflict between the I/O requests.

26. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of host adaptors which control data transfer between the control unit and the plurality of storage devices.

- 27. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.
- 28. (New) The system according to claim 26, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.
- 29. (New) The system according to claim 28, wherein the control unit includes cache memories which enable the transfer of data between the host adaptors and the disk adaptors.
- 30. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a control memory which stores control information into a plurality of tables.
- 31. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit is designed to perform exclusive control over the I/O requests based upon their extents, their extents being defined by a start address and an end address of said same logical device.

- 32. (New) A system comprising:
 - a plurality of storage devices; and

a control unit for controlling read/write of data requested by a plurality of host processors into the plurality of storage devices, using a plurality of logical storage areas constituted by storage areas of the plurality of storage devices,

wherein, when the control unit receives I/O requests from multiple host processors for the same logical storage area, the I/O requests are not handled in parallel if the control unit determines that there is an extent conflict between the I/O requests.

- 33. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of host adaptors which control data transfer between the control unit and the plurality of storage devices.
- 34. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.

35. (New) The system according to claim 33, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical storage areas.

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- 36. (New) The system according to claim 35, wherein the control unit includes cache memories which enable the transfer of data between the host adaptors and the disk adaptors.
- 37. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a control memory which stores control information into a plurality of tables.
- 38. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit is designed to perform exclusive control over the I/O requests based upon their extents, their extents being defined by a start address and an end address of said same logical device.